



DPBHS Kids Line



WINTER 2010

Jack Markell,
Governor

A Newsletter from the
Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services
Delaware Children's Department

Vivian Rapposelli,
Cabinet Secretary

Message from the Director, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services Department

Winter brings a chill to the air and a new sense of invigoration to our Division's work! A recent review of the many services offered through our new Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services indicates that more than 70,000 individuals receive some service from our division over a year's time! We are helping more children, families, and schools than ever before, thanks to our staff and community partners. **90% of the families we serve are happy with their child's progress.**



The youngest children and their families may receive evidence-based treatment called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to address very challenging behaviors or Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to address traumatic stress issues. Families participate in peer-support groups to reduce isolation. Parents and caregivers participate in early childhood mental health consultation at their child's early care center, or Promoting Safe & Stable Families programs in their community. More than 600 people participated in our State Conference on Young Child Mental Health, Prevention Forum and Fatherhood Conference!

Elementary-age children are likely to benefit from contact with a Family Crisis Therapist (FCT) sited in their school who works as part of our division's K-5 Program, a collaboration with the Department of Education and DE's school districts. When individual treatment is indicated, the FCTs link children and families to treatment or to services offered through a wide array of public agencies and offices. Many participate in Strengthening Families.

Middle school-aged youth may be involved in our school-based mental health treatment pilot that addresses trauma and grief issues. Their families may be active in any of the many prevention activities sponsored through our division, such as suicide prevention training. Mom or dad may serve on our Division's Advisory and Advocacy Council. Perhaps, after seeing a substance abuse prevention billboard, the parent locked the liquor cabinet, helping to prevent underage drinking.

High-school aged youth may be in treatment with a community therapist trained by our division. Therapists may use the treatment work book our own staff and partners wrote for them. Teachers might use Collaborative Problem Solving to partner with students in getting to the root of problem behaviors and developing a better connection with students, which can result in fewer disciplinary actions, increased school attendance and perhaps even better academic performance. Our Division initiated the Collaborative Problem Solving Approach in Delaware.

I hope you will enjoy reading a bit more about our recent activities and I hope you will contact me if you'd like to become more involved in partnering with our division. We are continuously working to improve services for children, youth and their families, and your support is welcomed. Happy Holidays!

Susan



DPBHS' NEW PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

On Wednesday, November 18th, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services launched a new statewide initiative focused on the prevention of underage drinking. Studies show underage drinking often serves as a gateway for teens to engage in other risky behaviors and addictions, increasing the likelihood they will enter into the Department's care. The **Step Up** campaign focuses on parents, guardians and other adults, urging them to look critically at the role they may play in making it okay for teens to drink, and how to change those behaviors.



The **Step Up** campaign, which publically kicked off in time for the holidays on November 21st, presents parents with steps they can take to play an active role in discouraging underage drinking. Cabinet Secretary Rapposelli serves as spokesperson for our **Step Up** campaign, with support from First Lady Carla Markell.

The campaign has several components, all springing from a short documentary examining underage drinking trends in Delaware and the brutal consequences of teens drinking alcohol – including sexual assault. These components include:

- a new website - www.ParentsStepUp.org
- social media sites;
- Billboards, including those put up on I-95 South between Wilmington and Newark and on Lancaster Pike in Wilmington;
- print ads, including half-page ads in the News Journal;
- success stories and feature stories in the newspaper, addressing how parents and adults in general can prevent teens from drinking.

This initiative has been led by Yvonne Bunch, program manager for Prevention and Substance Abuse Services. Yvonne has worked diligently to map out the campaign with contractor Gillespie Hall. With the support of staff Martha Gregor, who directs the Division's Prevention and Substance Abuse Services, and the entire prevention services team, we have produced a well-planned campaign to:

- Help adults recognize and change their behaviors that facilitate underage drinking; and
- Provide ideas for effective 'House Rules' to help adults protect kids from underage drinking;
- Highlight the consequences of underage drinking.

All Department staff, community partners and stakeholders are encouraged to become familiar with the campaign website (www.ParentsStepUp.org) and share the materials related to the campaign with families to help us deliver this very important message to the citizens of Delaware.

DPBHS Partners with Six School Districts to Address Challenging Behaviors of Students

Over the summer of 2010, as Delaware schools were preparing for the Race to the Top state plan implementation and following newspaper reports of the disciplinary action reports across schools in Delaware, there was heightened concern in the community and in schools regarding the frequency of the use of disciplinary actions with students with challenging behaviors, particularly with children of color and children residing in the City of Wilmington. To address this concern, The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League (MWUL) initiated a series of collaborative meetings between our division and the school districts in the New Castle County area. Working together with DPBHS, the school districts agreed to move forward on several initiatives to address students' challenging behaviors in the classroom.

Collaborative Problem Solving:

On **December 10, more than 600 school staff** and invited guests attended an introductory full-day workshop titled "Rethinking Students with Challenging Behaviors," held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington. Six school districts including Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Christina, Colonial, New Castle County Vo-Tech and the Red Clay Consolidated School District as well as the MWUL and the Education Unit of the Delaware Children's Department partnered to form the Collaborative Problem Solving initiative. Forty DPBHS Family Crisis Therapists sited in New Castle County elementary schools also attended.

The introductory workshop, conducted by J. Stuart Ablon, Ph.D., Director of ***Think: Kids*** in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, outlined the research and development of the intervention and the specifics of the collaborative Problem Solving approach. Dr. Ablon is an associate clinical Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard and co-founder of the **Center for Collaborative Problem Solving**. He is co-author of *Treating Explosive Kids: The Collaborative Problem Solving Approach*. The approach is also outlined in a 2009 book called *Lost in Schools*, authored by Ross Greene, Ph.D. and addressed on the website at www.thinkkids.org. Our division identified the approach as one that might be of interest to the schools and has facilitated workshop and training for the schools with Dr. Ablon.



J. Stuart Ablon, Ph.D.



Next, more than 270 school staff will participate in an intensive three-day training in Delaware beginning on January 19, 2011 **for school building teams** (e.g. psychologists, counselors, and other identified staff) in the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) intervention, resulting in **certification as local experts**. These 'local experts' will provide support to teachers using CPS. Weekly, 90-minute consultation sessions will provide support to these newly certified CPS consultants as they provide consultation to the teachers in their respective school buildings who are using the approach with students throughout the balance of the year. (Continued on page 4)

(continued from previous page) The school districts and partners sponsoring this initiative support this intervention to help school staffs use creative and innovative ways to connect to their students in a more meaningful way and to help students reach their highest potential. School attendance, disciplinary action reports and academic achievement results will be used to **evaluate the success of this intervention in the schools.**

DPBHS Partners with Three School Districts to Pilot School-based Mental Health Treatment

The DPBHS and the Christina, Colonial and Red Clay Consolidated School Districts are partnering to pilot school-based mental health treatment in three middle schools this school year. The participating middle schools and partnering mental health providers are:

- Christina School District's Bayard Middle School, with Delaware Guidance Services therapists Janine Conkey-Howell, LCSW and Patricia Haman, LCSW;
- Colonial School District's George Read Middle School, with Supporting Kidds therapists Stephanie Traynor, Psy. D. and Malina Spirito, Psy.D; and
- Red Clay Consolidated School District's Stanton Middle School, with Jewish Family Services therapists Nona Smoklo, LCSW and Denise Repka, LCSW.

DPBHS worked with schools to identify Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCT-A), a manualized, research-based intervention, developed by Robert Pynoos, M.D., MPH, Chris Layne, Ph.D., and William Saltzman, Ph.D., (all at UCLA) as an intervention that could help to address student's issues of traumatic stress and grief that, if left untreated, can lead to poor school performance and more serious mental health disturbances. With the strong support of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the division arranged for Dr. Saltzman, along with Dr. Erna Olafson from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to conduct expert clinical training in Delaware for the six therapists.



During October and November of 2010, school staff learned about child traumatic stress with DPBHS training, then identified students who would be likely to benefit from trauma and grief issues. **More than 75% of identified students screened positive for traumatic stress and/or grief** and were identified as likely to benefit from this treatment. The students are participating in one of two groups (6-8 students per group) that will be meeting weekly in each school during the school day for 16-24 weeks. Those groups for which the additional grief component is indicated will have additional sessions to address grief issues, resulting in the variation in length of treatment. Groups began meeting in all three pilot school in early December 2010. (Continued on page 5)

(continued from previous page) The **University of Delaware's Department of Psychology**, specifically Roger Kobak, Ph.D., and doctoral students Joanna Herres and Lauren Troy, are **partnering with DPBHS to conduct the evaluation of this pilot**. Pre-post data on students, as well as pre-post data collected from parents/caregivers and teachers, will be assessed along with data from schools on attendance, disciplinary actions and academic achievement to evaluate the outcome of the pilot for students in the three middle schools. The evaluation is expected to be completed and available for review by July 2011.

Funding for this effort has been provided by the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services. Special thanks to Nancy Widdoes for her leadership in this initiative.



DPBHS and schools staff meeting to plan the pilot

DPBHS/DFS Collaboration: Improving Services for Children and Their Families



Nationally, Adoption Day is a day to celebrate adoptive families. November 20th, Delaware celebrated its own annual Celebrate Adoption Day. There were workshops and entertainment, a silent auction, a gallery of adoptive families, Heart Gallery photos and representatives from adoption related agencies.

Delaware's annual Celebrate Adoption Day was held in Dover, sponsored by Adoptive Families with Information and Support (AFIS), the Children's Department, Upper Bay Adoption and Counseling Services, and the Interagency Committee on Adoption. Several hundred people including adoptive families, agency staff and Family Court judges were in attendance. DPBHS hosted a table highlighting our new services for young children and their families, with plenty of information, brochures, and give-aways with contact information to help families link to our services.

DPBHS Deputy Director Vicky Kelly conducted a workshop on "*How Old is Your Kid Anyway?*," designed to help parents understand the differences between children's chronological age and developmental functioning level where children have experienced maltreatment as very young children.

Note: DPBHS is currently filling two positions to enhance our ability to provide behavioral health consultation to DFS staff about children who are entering foster care beginning in the new year.

DPBHS/DYRS Collaboration: Improving Services for Children and Their Families

Annette Miller, Superintendent of Ferris School, recently acknowledged a successful collaboration. In a note to DPBHS supervising psychologist Aileen Fink, she wrote: *"Dear Dr. Fink, on behalf of DYRS and Ferris School, we extend our sincere thanks to you and the psychologists for the support your team provided Ferris during the ACA audit. You reviewed policies, and the psychologists provided the necessary documentation required for several mental health standards. The ACA audit is a very strenuous process. However, because of the support of my colleagues and partners, Ferris received a passing score of 95%. We really appreciate your continued support and generosity."* Great work all!

Jennifer Showers, DPBHS Substance Abuse Specialist at Stevenson House Detention Center, recently commented on her appreciation for the support she receives from DYRS, particularly for the strong active support of John Stevenson, Superintendent of the facility. She said, *"A few months ago Mr. Stevenson asked that I develop a wish list of items to be utilized with the substance use services that I provide. I feel as though I am celebrating Christmas early this year! I received several educational DVD's, Fatal Vision Goggle Kit, workbooks, a laptop, and a projector. I understand Carlyse Giddens, DYRS Division Director, provided the opportunity to purchase these supplies through a grant. All the items I received have been very helpful and useful in providing services to residents. I truly appreciate it!"*

This is just one example of the great partnership and close working relationship between DPBHS and YRS and of our shared commitment to improve the lives of youth who come into our care. *Its all about the kids!*

Update: DPBHS Family Crisis Therapists in Elementary Schools

The school-based Family Crisis Therapists (FCTs) are busy with the new school year underway! The FCTs are currently working with close to 600 kids and their families promoting health and wellness, academic achievement and social development. FCTs have increased their caseload by 16% compared to last year at this time. We are quickly filling vacancies in the program as they arise and continually look towards enhancement of services. I appreciate all of the hard work of the FCTs and their supervisors, as well as the leadership of Joyce Hawkins and Harvey Doppelt.

On October 25th, Harvey Doppelt, Joyce Hawkins and Chuck Webb met with the school-based FCTs and their supervisors in order to start implementing child traumatic stress screening as a routine part of early intervention in the elementary schools. During this constructive discussion the training team introduced an abbreviated screening instrument that takes 10 minutes to administer, and FCTs asked for added support with administrators, guidance for talking to parents, and more changes to make the instrument user-friendly. Implementing child traumatic stress screening in the elementary schools is one of several projects the division supports in order to link traumatized children with clinicians trained to provide trauma-specific treatment. For referrals to one of the 34 therapists in our network that is trained and certified to provide trauma-specific treatment, go to: http://kids.delaware.gov/pdfs/dscyf_trauma_Delaware_TF_CBT_Roster_20100104.pdf.

Update: DPBHS SilverLake Treatment Consortium



The annual Silver Lake Fall Festival was held on November 17th, an opportunity for the youth in treatment at SilverLake to spend positive social time with their parents and other family members, for the youth to highlight some of their special talents and for all to enjoy a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal together. Most youth receiving services at Silver Lake had family members or others (e.g. Guardian Ad Litem) attend the event to show their support.

The clinical staff and educational team worked very hard behind the scenes to quietly meet with parents to review their child's academic progress. In addition, Gretchen Lasswell, a SilverLake clinician, worked quietly with a set of potential foster parents for a youth who has been at SilverLake for more than two years. By the end of the evening, the potential foster parents had met with the young man, his grandmother, his Educational Surrogate, and his mentor. Most importantly, they fully committed to having the young man come and join their family as a foster son. The evening closed with a very moving and energetic musical presentation by the Silver Tones, a choir organized and directed by Dawn Rowe, YRC III at SilverLake, with some help provided by YRC II staff members Brian O'Neil, Lou Johnson and Hector Ortiz. Special recognition goes to Helen Reader and Ed Lewis who prepared the meal as well as to Eric Bordley, YRC Supervisor at SilverLake, who was the Master of Ceremonies for the musical presentation. What a perfect way to connect youth and families! Many thanks to Tammy Walker-Gladney and the team for a great event.

A recent message from the parent of J., who attended Silver Lake RTC, to Cynthia Emerick McCauley, Educational Diagnostician:

"Hi Cynthia. Just a quick note to say hi and to let you know that J. has completed his first semester of 8th grade and is doing absolutely wonderful. The teachers and principal are thrilled (as are we) that he has responded so well to the school and other students. He is mentoring several of his classmates who are struggling in different subjects and is really looked up to. I believe he is the only child in the entire school to receive a report card with all A+ grades. This is a real testament to you and the SilverLake teachers and staff and we wanted to share the good news with you. Again, thank you for all your support and encouragement during an extremely difficult period of J's life. Have a great day".



Dan Cherneski and the rest of the entire SilverLake staff worked diligently with this youth to improve his social skills, which had previously been the primary reason for his lack of school success. *Great job, team!*

DPBHS Employee Recognition



DPBHS' **Dorangely Johnson, Family Crisis Therapist** sited at the Blades Elementary School in the Seaford School District is recognized as the Employee of the Quarter! Routinely providing intervention services to address issues that may impede a student's ability to succeed academically, providing counseling and linking families to community resources for their students, she is recognized for going 'over and beyond' to help children and their families. Examples include: coordinating the first Energy Assistance and Family Resource Fair at the school, partnering with the Delaware Community Reinvestment Council to bring money management training to the school for children and parents, and partnering with La Esperanza to start seminars on immigration laws and family services at the school. Her bilingual ability and tireless work to assist children and families and the school and community maker her a DPBHS STAR!!!!

DPBHS— Continuously Improving Services for Young Children and Their Families

Intensive, home-based Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), a service for young children with the most intensive challenging behaviors and their families, has been in place for several months now, running at full capacity! Josh Masse, Ph.D., the clinical PCIT trainer, reports that his regular reviews of videotaped sessions conducted in homes routinely show that the PCIT home-based treatment therapists are doing exceptionally well in terms of delivering the treatment with fidelity to the model. **Thirty-four young children and their families have received home-based PCIT to date** in Sussex County and Wilmington areas. The therapists report they find Dr. Masse's comments and suggestions to be extremely helpful in continually improving the quality of treatment for the young child clients and their families. The manualized treatment requires that **competency and mastery of skills** are the indication of completion of treatment, rather than number of sessions. Families receiving PCIT home-based treatment report high levels of satisfaction with this intensive service. Also **availability of outpatient treatment for PCIT is statewide**. To date, more than 120 children and their families have received PCIT in outpatient office-based settings.



Community Outreach:

The Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

Conference: The Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DAEYC) hosted its annual conference at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall on October 23rd. DBPHS' Delaware's B.E.S.T. for Young Children and Their Families grant staff, staffed an information table, **distributing division services**

information to more than 200 participants. Each table visitor received some great give-aways and the opportunity to participate in a raffle drawing to win a Mr. Potato Head toy. Lisa Masse, Ph.D., Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, conducted a workshop on PCIT. Janet Taylor-McDowell, Delaware's B.E.S.T. Early Childhood Youth Engagement Specialist and DAEYC Board Member, assisted in planning and preparation for the annual conference. The conference focused on the importance of the use of kindness with young children and on strategies for increasing child and care provider esteem.



Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

The Red Clay Consolidated School District Family Resource Fair: At the invitation of Assistant Superintendent Mary Norris, DPBHS staffed an information table at this annual event, held this year at the Conrad High School on Nov. 20. More than 900 people participated! Our staff spoke directly with more than 200 parents and caregivers, providing information about division services, brochures, give-aways and answering questions. Many parents and caregivers had young children with them, providing a great opportunity to disseminate information on the young child services as well as the broader array of division services for older youth and their families.

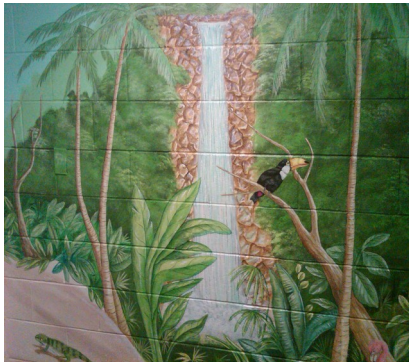
Update: DPBHS' Terry Children's Psychiatric Center

The Terry Center has had busy fall season. With the new school year underway, the management team embarked on a creative plan to help make the school environment more like that in the kids' community schools. This effort involved several important elements. One was the creation of the Terry School Store, in which students can "buy" small things when they have accumulated positive points for good behavior. Another was the creation of a school newsletter and fun days (like wearing certain colored clothing or even having their clothing on inside out). The school also chose a mascot, the tiger shark. These efforts will continue in coming months with pep rallies and other assemblies. All of these positive steps help improve motivation and provide important opportunities for normalized experiences for the kids.



On October 29, staff hosted the Annual Halloween Party full of fun activities and treats for kids in the RTC and Day Treatment Program. The party culminated with Dr. Tom Olson, Administrator, and Bert Tally, School Principal, having their heads shaved and painted like pumpkins! This thrilled the kids who watched with rapt attention and many eagerly volunteered to help.

Also beginning this fall was a new program called PAWS. Rachel Dixon, a new therapist at Terry Center, helped forge the link to bring this program to the center. PAWS is a program in which specially trained dogs and their volunteer trainers come to the residential treatment unit one evening per week for the kids to read to the dogs. The kids have loved this special opportunity and look forward to it each week. This wonderful program provides the opportunity for the kids to practice reading, while interacting calmly with these wonderful therapeutic dogs.



Last, but certainly not least, are the physical changes in the environment at Terry Center. Secretary Rapposelli learned of the work of local artist, Dan Gotel, who has completed many murals at the zoo and various health care facilities. She was instrumental in arranging for Dan to create a mural at Terry Center for the kids.

What began as a small mural project has, through Dan's additional generosity, expanded into something truly amazing.

There are now a series of murals in the residential area of the facility, where a beach scene leads to a rain forest and on to an underwater seascape. Through Dan's artistry and keen sense of the kids' needs, the murals have helped create an inviting and child-friendly environment that captivates all who see it.

This magical transformation has touched several of the children in ways that have clearly supported their healing.



DPBHS Child Priority Response Crisis Intervention Service Now Delivered Statewide through

On Oct. 1, 2010, DPBHS crisis services, known as Child Priority Response (CPR), were united under one agency, Delaware Guidance Services. This allowed for a more efficient use of the divisions limited resources and enabled all 3 counties to follow the same policies and procedures.

The first concrete evidence of this consolidation was the creation of a single call center using one 800 number (800-969-HELP 4357). Previously there were 2 centers, one for New Castle County, and one for Kent/Sussex counties. With this new center, a caller bypasses DPBHS central intake and speaks directly to a crisis clinician who will then dispatch a crisis team if needed or offer consultation services if that is more appropriate. The caller is thus connected to the service more quickly and efficiently.

DGS who already was the crisis provider for Kent/Sussex absorbed the entire New Castle county CPR team thus eliminating any traditional issues that a merger of this magnitude could have caused. The same clinicians that were on duty with the previous provider Diakon, on Sept. 30, were on duty Oct. 1 as DGS employees. Our clients did not experience any disruption in service.

Cathy Rose LCSW, was appointed the director of this service within the DGS organization with 3 county supervisors reporting to her. It is anticipated that with one provider, administrative functions will be simplified and more resources can be diverted to core services.

The crisis bed services remain the same with 6 beds located at the Terry Children's Center and 2 beds located at the DGS offices in Lewis. These beds are supervised shelter care for those children not needing the intensity of an inpatient Psychiatric hospital but need close short term (3 days maximum) observation or evaluation. Admission to these beds is through a CPR team. DPBHS recognizes and thanks Bob Dunleavy for a great job in managing the successful transition!



DPBHS Partners in Preventing Victimization

New Partners in Preventing Victimization

Through the division's partnership with the Department of Justice's Child Predator Task Force, two informational toolkits focusing on the issue of sexting and how to prevent internet victimization are being widely disseminated. One toolkit is geared towards teens and the other towards parents and caretakers. The toolkits educate about the legal and social ramifications of sending explicit pictures through a cell phone or while online, and also offer resources to combat victimization. The messaging in the toolkits reads "Send is 4ever!" The toolkits can be downloaded from the Departmental website and for hard copies, please contact Dana Sawyer.

Update: DPBHS Prevention Services



DPBHS has completed the proposal review process for the **Promoting Safe and Stable Families** programs. This program provides support and intervention on behalf of families in order to assist in addressing the challenges and barriers they face in providing a stable home environment and in attaining the family and life goals that they envision. DPBHS welcomes back several providers: Children and Families First, First State Community Action Agency, Jewish Family Services of Delaware. NEW providers selected are Connections and Neighborhood House. This prevention service for families is offered statewide, and the program includes two DPBHS full time employees who provide more intensive supports and intervention for those families identified as facing more complex or chronic challenges. ***Strong families support resilient children!***

In June, DPBHS partnered with DOE and DSAMH to submit a collaborative "*Building State Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use and Violence*" grant application to the U.S. Department of Education. In September, Delaware DOE was awarded a one-year grant in the amount of 125,000. Schools will become partners in prevention, and the health and social needs of youth will be assessed and integrated in the school improvement process. The grant will support DPBHS to expand quality professional development opportunities to teachers and youth service providers and create an online tool to help access resources and education materials. DOE will provide \$48,000 to DPBHS to perform these tasks. Thanks to Yvonne Bunch and Martha Gregor for seeking opportunities to expand our prevention efforts!

Update: DPBHS Clinical Services Management

In response to the needs of our clinical services management teams for staff support, two seasonal/casual and full-time direct service positions were redirected from other units within the Division into the clinical services management unit. In response to the teams' needs for more intensive outpatient services for the children we serve, New Behavioral Network and Delaware Guidance Services expanded their IOP programs. ***Family satisfaction rate with our Division's 2010 services was 90%***

DPBHS Develops New Tool for Clinician Training

DPBHS is proud to announce its recent distribution of a new resource for clinicians in our network that are learning to use Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). The resource, entitled the ***Trauma-Focused CBT Clinical Workbook***, is an original product of the division's Child Traumatic Stress Treatment Center federal grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Many division staff members, community providers and interns from the University of Delaware have contributed to this useful clinical tool.

DPBHS has distributed the ***Trauma-Focused CBT Clinical Workbook*** to all past and current trainees. Many thanks to Beth Joselow, Chuck Webb, Damion Grasso and the many other contributors and all of the student interns who spent countless hours proof-reading materials. DPBHS is pleased to add this additional resource to its toolkit for the transfer of evidence-based practices to Delaware behavioral health providers and the children and families they serve.

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Division Advisory and Advocacy Council Update:

Next Meeting: January 14, 2011, 9—11am

Delaware Youth and Family Center, Room 198, 1825 Faulkland Road, Wilmington, DE

The Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services' Advisory and Advocacy Council meets six times a year. A DPBHS provider, Stephanie Traynor, Psy D. and a family member, Julie Cutler, serve as the Co-Chairs.

The Council meetings are filled with information sharing and networking opportunities. The Council regularly reviews and discusses Division and Department plans, activities and efforts, providing essential community input into strategic planning, evaluation and policy development. Guest speakers to inform members about new initiatives are often on the agenda.

A short list of this year's presentations includes:

- An update on children in foster care and the Child Protection Accountability Commission;
- The integration of Prevention and Early Intervention services into the new Division;
- Updates on the division's federal grant initiative called Delaware's B.E.S.T. for Young Children and Their Families initiatives;
- Department and Division budget information;
- How to be an effective advocate.

The 2011 schedule sets meetings for: January 14, March 25, May 20, July 22, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, and Nov. 18. Presentations tentatively scheduled include information on the state's youth data surveillance system, new laws affecting service delivery and early care and education best practices. Please plan to attend these important meetings—all are welcomed!